

the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He has held leadership positions in all three organizations and, at present, he is a member of the executive board and legislative officer for the local chapter of the DAV. He also volunteers at the VA Medical Center and runs the Bingo event once a month at the VA nursing home in Lake Nona.

I am happy to recognize Eduardo Posada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to our country and the Central Florida community.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,937,617,036,693.09. We've added \$7,310,739,987,780.01 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### BERGEN 350TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding achievement of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood. Furthermore, I am proud to celebrate the historic tradition of Bergen County and its many important contributions to the history of New Jersey as part of the Bergen 350 Gala. As one of the first four original counties of New Jersey, I have the honor of being its Representative in the U.S. Congress.

Founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century, the area of Bergen County was settled as part of the New Netherlands, the 17th century North American colonial province of the Dutch Republic. In 1683, Bergen County received official recognition as an independent county by New Jersey's provincial assembly.

It is clear that Bergen County has played a crucial role in shaping the proud history of the Garden State.

In the Revolutionary War, Bergen County demonstrated its commitment to American independence. In fact, Fort Lee served as a key strategic asset to General Washington and his army.

In the Civil War, Company K of the 22nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment trained at the Civil War Drill Hall Theatre, which still stands in Leonia today. In World War I, Bergen County made use of innovative agricultural knowledge to support the war effort, canning fruits and vegetables and sending them to where they were needed.

After the nation fell into the Great Depression, Bergen County hosted numerous Work Projects Administration projects like the murals

that decorate the County Courthouse in Hackensack. At the onset of World War II, Bergen County once again demonstrated its commitment to the nation, with more than 26,000 of its residents enlisting to serve.

In the Civil Rights Era, Teaneck became one of the earliest towns to voluntarily integrate its public schools by busing, doing so in 1964.

I am truly honored to represent Bergen County as part of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District in the United States Congress. As such, I was proud to cosponsor H. Res. 624, to honor the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey and recognize the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State.

As we move forward, I would like to recognize the Bergen County Historical Society and the Bergen 350 Gala on October 15th, 2014 to commemorate the role of Bergen County in light of the state of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the state of New Jersey in recognizing the historic contributions of Bergen County in honor of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood.

#### CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN GILLEN

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my former coach and dear friend, Mr. John Gillen, for his over 50 years of incredible work at my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. His titles were athletic director, coach, and teacher, but those were just labels. Coach Gillen was a role model for me and many other student athletes. He was fair, dedicated, and had a great sense of humor. But most importantly he was able to give us the tough love that was so often needed to instill discipline and resiliency. He would spend countless hours at our school and would ask for so little in return. His joy and fulfillment comes from shaping the minds and spirits of the young people at our school.

I will never forget watching daily as a high school student Mr. G quietly stepping into the school chapel. He took time to pray, meditate, and to thank God for all of his blessings. That stuck with me as I walked my own personal spiritual journey. I have him to thank for, through his modeling and leadership the encouragement to pursue my own personal journey. For that I will be forever grateful as it is the best gift he could have given to me. I treasure my experiences on and off the field with Coach Gillen. He represents the best of Kennedy High School and the best example of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. If those who know him could measure up to be half the person he is we would vastly improve our schools, our community, and our nation in countless ways.

I would like to also submit the following article that appeared in the Tribune Chronicle on August 9, 2014 in his honor.

#### STILL GOING STRONG GILLEN A LEGEND IN KENNEDY HISTORY

WARREN.—John Gillen likes to keep things simple and understated. Nothing displays

that more than the tiny office Gillen occupies as the Athletic Director at John F. Kennedy High School. Tucked in behind the ticket office next to the gymnasium that's named after him, the work space can best be described as a cubicle. With a desk, chair and some filing cabinets in place, there's no more than 50 square feet of walking space. To get a view of the outside world, Gillen has to step from the office and peek through the ticket office towards a set of doors. To some it might seem a bit claustrophobic, but to Gillen it's served with the comfort a tree house would to a young boy for decades.

John F. Kennedy athletic director John Gillen is shown in his office at the high school. Gillen has been AD since 1971 and was a part of the first staff when Kennedy opened its doors in 1964. "I never wanted to move," Gillen said as he took a break from work on a late July day. "They asked me if I wanted to move down close to the main offices. I like it here. It would probably make a great bomb shelter if we ever get attacked; or a hurricane or earthquake; this would be the place to come." Gillen moved to the office from a nearby work space that was even smaller. To the best of his recollection, he's been in the current office about 35 years, which was about seven years into what is now his 42nd year as athletic director.

It probably seems like only yesterday to Gillen, who is living proof that the love of work and an active mind can keep a person young at heart. Gillen doesn't show much of his 81 years other than the usual gray hair and perhaps slower walk that are inevitable with the aging process. His mind is sharp, which it has to be to deal with the demands of a job that can be thankless and rewarding at the same time. How he does it when most people his age have given in to retirement or infirmity is remarkable. The phone calls from parents upset about a child's lack of playing time. The constant demands of scheduling at a time when it's become impossible to find an area conference willing to extend JFK an invitation to the club. The secret for Gillen is to keep physically active and tap into the energy of those around him, including his wife Gloria, and an unwavering faith in God. It starts with a workout with light weights every morning. "Dealing with the kids," Gillen said. "They keep you young. They'll keep you on your toes, I'll tell you."

Another key to Gillen's longevity is his humility and the accommodating manner in which he's treated those he's worked with all these years. Ask any JFK coach that's had dealings with Gillen, and you won't find one that will say a bad word about him. "John is a very calm, easy-going guy," said Dennis Zolciak, who coached the Eagles' football team from 1977-90. "The thing is his heart is totally into the school. He wants what's best for the school." There are generally two types of athletic directors—ones that want control of everything, including calling a few plays, and ones that take a back seat and try to make life as easy as possible for the coaches. Gillen fits the latter category to the max, always being careful to meet the demands of every coach, even if he might not agree with all the requests. "He couldn't do enough for you, and then some," said Tony Napolet, the football coach from 1970-72 and 1991-2010.

Few people know Gillen better than Napolet, whom Gillen coached in football at St. Mary's Junior High School more than 60 years ago. The two are as much a part of the athletic fabric at JFK as any person ever associated with the school. "He's the best part of that place," Napolet said. "He's been there 50 years. Since before they opened. He loves it. That place is his life." Gillen was raised here and graduated from St. Mary's